

SENATE RESOLUTION 612—RECOGNIZING THE WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM DURING ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR FOR ITS HISTORY OF REDUCING THE ENERGY COSTS OF FAMILIES WITH LOW INCOMES, MAKING LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS HEALTHIER AND SAFER, POSITIVELY IMPACTING THE ENVIRONMENT, AND SUPPORTING JOBS AND NEW TECHNOLOGY

Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. COONS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 612

Whereas Congress has long recognized the disproportionate energy burden on families and individuals with low incomes;

Whereas, in 1976, Congress and the Department of Energy developed the Weatherization Assistance Program (in this preamble referred to as the “WAP”) to increase the energy efficiency of dwellings owned or occupied by low-income individuals, reduce the total residential energy expenditures of those individuals, and improve the health and safety of those individuals, especially low-income individuals who are particularly vulnerable, such as the elderly, persons with disabilities, families with children, high residential energy users, and households with high energy burdens;

Whereas low-income households on average pay 7.2 percent of the income of those households on utilities, more than 3 times the amount that higher income households pay;

Whereas at least ¼ of low-income households in many regions experience an energy burden that is greater than 14 percent of household income;

Whereas nearly 9,000,000 families across the United States live in energy inefficient, unhealthy homes;

Whereas the WAP operates in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, 5 territories of the United States, and Indian tribal governments;

Whereas more than 7,400,000 homes have been weatherized since the inception of the WAP in 1976;

Whereas, in a typical year, the WAP produces more than \$300,000,000 in energy cost savings;

Whereas a typical low-income family saves between \$250 and \$450 per year after receiving weatherization services;

Whereas every dollar invested in weatherization returns \$4.10 to society in energy, health, and safety benefits;

Whereas children in households that receive weatherization services miss fewer days of school due to incidences of asthma, respiratory difficulties, and other health related issues;

Whereas investment in the WAP by the Federal Government and other sources supports more than 25,000 jobs across the United States in related industries;

Whereas the WAP decreases pollution and improves air quality;

Whereas the WAP has increased its impact through a strategic partnership with the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (commonly known as the “LIHEAP”) of the Department of Health and Human Services;

Whereas the WAP has implemented rigorous quality control standards and procedures;

Whereas the WAP has incorporated cutting edge technologies; and

Whereas, by decreasing the amount of personal income spent on home energy, the WAP makes housing more affordable, improves the quality of life for families with low incomes, reduces forced mobility, and increases the energy security of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the Weatherization Assistance Program for 40 years of reducing the energy burden of families with low incomes, making low-income households healthier and safer, positively impacting the environment, and supporting jobs and new technology;

(2) encourages the Weatherization Assistance Program to continue performing essential weatherization services in the future;

(3) applauds the dedicated professionals at the Federal, State, and local levels who run the daily operations of the Weatherization Assistance Program; and

(4) congratulates the Weatherization Assistance Program on the 40th anniversary of the Weatherization Assistance Program being signed into law on August 14, 1976.

SENATE RESOLUTION 613—RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF NORTH MISSISSIPPI RURAL LEGAL SERVICES IN OXFORD, MISSISSIPPI

Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 613

Whereas North Mississippi Rural Legal Services, originally called Lafayette County Legal Aid, was organized in 1966 as a training program for law students at the University of Mississippi School of Law;

Whereas North Mississippi Rural Legal Services was organized to combine the provision of legal services with a teaching program to develop a law school curriculum with a focus on the legal problems of low-income individuals, and North Mississippi Rural Legal Services was subsequently incorporated as an independent nonprofit corporation, receiving funds from the National Legal Services Corporation;

Whereas the mission of North Mississippi Rural Legal Services is to provide high-quality attorney representation and advocacy to ensure equal access to justice for vulnerable members of society through constant training, self-analysis, and community involvement;

Whereas North Mississippi Rural Legal Services provides the highest quality of legal and technical assistance, which improves the daily quality of life for low-income individuals and contributes to the attainment of social, economic, and legal equality;

Whereas North Mississippi Rural Legal Services is governed by a 25-member board of directors appointed by the Mississippi Bar, the Magnolia Bar, and local advisory committees;

Whereas North Mississippi Rural Legal Services has administrative offices in Oxford, Mississippi, and offices in Clarksdale, Greenville, and West Point, Mississippi, all of which strive daily to meet the unmet civil legal needs of low-income Mississippians;

Whereas there are more than 250,000 low-income individuals in the 39-county service area of North Mississippi Rural Legal Services, which, as of 2015, has served more than 17,000 Mississippians, providing access to the legal system that might otherwise be unavailable to those individuals due to their economic situation;

Whereas over the last 50 years, North Mississippi Rural Legal Services has partnered with various funders, attorneys, friends, and corporate and individual supporters to provide thousands of low-income clients with habitable and affordable housing, safety, healthcare, economic security, and financial independence while ensuring that each client maintains inherent human dignity;

Whereas 50 years ago, the journey began to provide high-quality legal representation to low-income Mississippians to ensure equal access to the courts of the State of Mississippi;

Whereas in 2016, North Mississippi Rural Legal Services continues the quest for justice to serve individuals and families regardless of race, age, gender, and ethnicity; and

Whereas the partnership between North Mississippi Rural Legal Services and the University of Mississippi School of Law continues the work of educating law students to increase the number of attorneys in the State of Mississippi who are sensitive to the needs of low-income individuals and knowledgeable in the areas of the law that affect those individuals: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes and commends outstanding acts of public service like those of North Mississippi Rural Legal Services;

(2) with great pride, joins in paying tribute to North Mississippi Rural Legal Services, a most effective and public-spirited organization, the advocacy of which on behalf of less fortunate Mississippians is a matter of less record; and

(3) recognizes the 50th anniversary of North Mississippi Rural Legal Services in Oxford, Mississippi.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 55—COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1916 OPENING OF THE TEXAS A&M COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE & BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES AND THE 2016 OPENING OF THE NEW TEXAS A&M VETERINARY & BIOMEDICAL EDUCATION COMPLEX IN COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. CRUZ) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 55

Whereas the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences has experienced 100 years of growth from a small school of veterinary medicine in 1916 to its present role as a major veterinary and biomedical educational, medical, and research center;

Whereas the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences—

(1) serves the great State of Texas and the United States through advances in animal and human health;

(2) supports the livestock industry;

(3) provides viable and diverse professional career paths for Texans;

(4) promotes science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education;

(5) contributes to the economic viability and job opportunities of local communities;

(6) provides disaster and emergency response support for animals throughout the State of Texas; and

(7) advances the veterinary profession;

Whereas the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences has continuously evolved with a changing world to become a modern, dynamic, and highly respected college of veterinary medicine and is

one of the largest colleges of veterinary medicine in the United States;

Whereas, as of May 2016, the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences has graduated 7,576 veterinarians into the veterinary profession, contributing a \$4,000,000,000 economic benefit to the State of Texas;

Whereas, in 2015, Quacquarelli Symonds, an educational firm that ranks veterinary medicine schools, ranked the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences sixth in the world and third in the United States, which is testament to the hard work and dedication of generations of Aggie students, faculty, staff, and veterinarians;

Whereas the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences strives to improve the health and well-being of animals, humans, and the environment through—

(1) collaborative learning, discovery, and innovation in basic, applied, and translational research; and

(2) commercialization in biomedical sciences;

Whereas the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences offers research signature programs in biomedical genomics, toxicology and environmental health, infectious disease and biodefense, neuroscience, reproductive biology, cardiovascular sciences, and veterinary clinical research, with increasing strength in regenerative medicine;

Whereas one of the core values of the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences is service, and the Veterinary Emergency Team of the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences—

(1) is the largest and most sophisticated veterinary medical disaster response team in the United States;

(2) provides cutting-edge emergency management education;

(3) develops new knowledge in emergency preparedness and response; and

(4) develops emergency preparedness plans for local communities throughout the State of Texas;

Whereas the faculty, staff, and students of the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences contribute to ever-evolving societal needs through their mission of education, research, and service in the field of veterinary medicine;

Whereas, in addition to contributing to the veterinary workforce, the economic benefit of the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences includes the protection of the \$18,000,000,000 animal agriculture industry and the \$7,000,000,000 wildlife industry of the State of Texas;

Whereas the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences is developing an integrated system that connects distant communities and regions of the great State of Texas through strategic partnerships with the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Center;

Whereas the strategic partnerships with the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Center will leverage and synergize the strengths of the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, the Texas A&M System, and constituencies—

(1) to advance animal, human, and environmental health throughout the State of Texas;

(2) to invest in the young people of the State of Texas as they seek professional careers in veterinary medicine, biomedical sciences, and related disciplines; and

(3) to contribute to the stability and growth of the economy of the State of Texas; and

Whereas the new Texas A&M Veterinary & Biomedical Education complex—

(1) will house state-of-the-art classroom and teaching laboratory space that will enhance the learning environment for veterinary and biomedical science students;

(2) combined with the expansion of the small animal hospital, will—

(A) provide opportunities for innovations in teaching; and

(B) nurture collaboration and creativity; and

(3) will enable the recruitment of the best students, faculty, and staff to the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress commemorates the 100th anniversary of the 1916 opening of the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences and the 2016 opening of the new Texas A&M Veterinary & Biomedical Education complex in College Station, Texas.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 5106. Mrs. FISCHER (for Mr. UDALL) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution H. Con. Res. 122, supporting efforts to stop the theft, illegal possession or sale, transfer, and export of tribal cultural items of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians in the United States and internationally.

SA 5107. Mrs. FISCHER (for Mr. UDALL) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution H. Con. Res. 122, *supra*.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 5106. Mrs. FISCHER (for Mr. UDALL) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution H. Con. Res. 122, supporting efforts to stop the theft, illegal possession or sale, transfer, and export of tribal cultural items of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians in the United States and internationally; as follows:

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This concurrent resolution may be cited as the “Protection of the Right of Tribes to stop the Export of Cultural and Traditional Patrimony Resolution” or the “PROTECT Patrimony Resolution”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this resolution:

(1) **NATIVE AMERICAN.**—The term “Native American” means—

(A) with respect to an individual, an individual who is a member of an Indian tribe (as defined in section 2 of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001)); and

(B) with respect to the cultural nature or significance of an item, right, or other object or concept, being of or significant to—

(i) an Indian tribe (as defined in section 2 of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001)); or

(ii) a Native Hawaiian organization (as defined in that section (25 U.S.C. 3001)).

(2) **TRIBAL CULTURAL ITEM.**—The term “tribal cultural item” has the meaning given the term “cultural item” in section 2 of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001).

SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Tribal cultural items—

(A) have ongoing historical, traditional, or cultural importance central to a Native American group or culture;

(B) cannot be alienated, appropriated, or conveyed by any individual; and

(C) are vital to Native American cultural survival and the maintenance of Native American ways of life.

(2) The nature and description of tribal cultural items are sensitive and to be treated with respect and confidentiality, as appropriate.

(3) Violators often export tribal cultural items internationally with the intent of evading Federal and tribal laws.

(4) Tribal cultural items continue to be removed from the possession of Native Americans and sold in black or public markets in violation of Federal and tribal laws, including laws designed to protect Native American cultural property rights.

(5) The illegal trade of tribal cultural items involves a sophisticated and lucrative black market, where the items are traded through domestic markets and then are often exported internationally.

(6) Auction houses in foreign countries have held sales of tribal cultural items from the Pueblo of Acoma, the Pueblo of Laguna, the Pueblo of San Felipe, the Hopi Tribe, and other Indian tribes.

(7) After tribal cultural items are exported internationally, Native Americans have difficulty stopping the sale of the items and securing their repatriation to their home communities, where the items belong.

(8) Federal agencies have a responsibility to consult with Native Americans to stop the theft, illegal possession or sale, transfer, and export of tribal cultural items.

(9) An increase in the investigation and successful prosecution of violations of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (16 U.S.C. 470aa et seq.) is necessary to deter illegal trading in tribal cultural items.

(10) Many Indian tribes and tribal organizations have passed resolutions condemning the theft and sale of tribal cultural items, including the following:

(A) The National Congress of American Indians passed Resolutions SAC-12-008 and SD-15-075 to call on the United States, in consultation with Native Americans—

(i) to address international repatriation; and

(ii) to take affirmative actions to stop the theft and illegal sale of tribal cultural items both domestically and internationally.

(B) The All Pueblo Council of Governors, representative of 20 Pueblo Indian tribes—

(i) noted that the Pueblo Indian tribes of the Southwestern United States have been disproportionately affected by the sale of tribal cultural items both domestically and internationally in violation of Federal and tribal laws; and

(ii) passed Resolutions 2015-12 and 2015-13 to call on the United States, in consultation with Native Americans—

(I) to address international repatriation; and

(II) to take affirmative actions to stop the theft and illegal sale of tribal cultural items both domestically and internationally.

(C) The United South and Eastern Tribes, an intertribal organization comprised of 26 federally recognized Indian tribes, passed Resolution 2015:007, which calls on the United States to address all means to support the repatriation of tribal cultural items from beyond United States borders.

(D) The Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes, uniting the Chickasaw, Choctaw, Cherokee, Muscogee (Creek), and Seminole Nations, passed Resolution 12-07, which requests that the United States, after